



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 13th April 2025



Palm Sunday 2025 Reflection

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, an event described in all four Gospels. In these accounts, Jesus enters the city riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9, which speaks of a king who comes in humility and peace. The crowds greet Him with palm branches and cries of "Hosanna," a word of praise and petition meaning "save us now."

The readings for Palm Sunday bring us into the tension of celebration and solemnity. For instance, the first reading (Isaiah 50:4-7) reflects the Suffering Servant's obedience and trust in God despite enduring scorn and suffering. The responsorial Psalm (Psalm 22) poignantly echoes themes of abandonment and hope, famously quoted by Jesus on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The second reading (Philippians 2:6-11) praises Christ's humility and exaltation, reminding us of His willingness to empty Himself for humanity's redemption. Finally, the Gospel reading recounts the Passion narrative, highlighting the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. Together, these readings invite us to ponder the paradox of Palm Sunday—the triumph of Christ's entry and the shadow of His impending suffering.

A Brief History of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, has been celebrated since the early centuries of Christianity. The use of palm branches symbolizes victory and peace, harking back to Jewish traditions where palms were used to celebrate joyous occasions. Early Christians integrated this imagery to commemorate Jesus as the victorious Messiah and the Prince of Peace.

By the fourth century, Palm Sunday processions became part of the liturgical tradition, particularly in Jerusalem, where pilgrims would retrace Jesus' steps to the Mount of Olives.

The palms blessed during these services were carried as symbols of faith and devotion. Over time, the celebration spread to other regions, adopting unique local customs. Today, Palm Sunday serves as a reminder of our call to follow Christ, embracing both His glory and His cross. As we reflect on Palm Sunday, may we welcome Jesus into our lives with the same enthusiasm as the crowds in Jerusalem, while also preparing our hearts for the journey of Holy Week, a pathway that leads to the resurrection and hope of Easter.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - Sunday 27th April Holy Hour and confessions at 2.45 -4pm

The Feast of Divine Mercy, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, was extended to the entire Catholic Church by St John Paul II in 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. There will be a holy hour in honour of divine Mercy here in the church on Sunday 27th April at 2.45pm. There is a novena which begins on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday. Leaflets will be available at the back church. **Priests will be available to hear confessions during holy hour.**

Bishop John Sherrington, has been appointed the next Archbishop of Liverpool, by the Holy Father. We assure him, wholeheartedly, of our prayers as he takes up his new ministry.

Services for Holy Week

Holy Thursday -17th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday - 18th April

Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm

A Collection for the holy places will take place.

Easter Vigil - Saturday 19th April

Mass at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday - 20th April

Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am

Divine Mercy Sunday - 27th April

Holy Hour and confessions at 2.45pm

Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 184

Pope Francis has decreed that the priests of the Church may choose men and women in the Mandatum (foot washing) rite on Holy Thursday: he says: 'From now on the Pastors of the Church may choose the participants in the rite from among all the members of the People of God.' His Holiness broke convention on the first Holy Thursday after his papal election in 2013, when he washed the feet of female prisoners. ***If you wish to have your feet washed please sign the list, on the notice board.***

THE BIG EASTER CLEAN

The big clean will be held on **Thursday 17th April, at 8am**. It would be great to have as many as possible here to help to prepare the church for the Easter weekend. If you are not a regular volunteer but would like to help please do come along. Hot cross buns & tea for the workers! Church will be open from 8am but please feel free to come along at any time during the morning.

Pope's Intention for April

For the use of the new technologies - Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times. Amen.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10th May - First Holy Communion Mass: 11.00am.

Sunday 18th May - Confirmation Mass: Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm the candidates at the 10.30am Mass.

Sunday 6th July - Open Air Mass: 10.30am in the church grounds. *This is the only Mass that weekend.*

Please speak to Fr. Denis if you have any questions regarding these events.



Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially Peter Comiski, Ray Carter and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Christine Philbin, Gerry Quinn, Pat Worbey, Marie Mc Alister and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: *Arthur Dilley, Abina Taylor, Mary Knowd, Mary Richardson, Mary Rose Walsh, James Barkley, Annie Brooks.*

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 12 th	6.30pm	
Sun 13 th	8.30am	Private Intention (Bereaved friends)
	10.30am	
Mon 14 th	10.00am	John Lane (sick)
Tue 15 th	No Mass	
Wed 16 th	10.00am	David Exley RIP
Thu 17 th	7.30pm	
Fri 18 th	3.00pm	

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.

Holy Hour: Saturday 5.15 - 6.15 pm

Confessions: Saturday 5.45 - 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis.

Children's Liturgy: Takes place during the 10.30am Mass except on the First Sunday of the Month (Family Mass) and during school holidays.

The Vigil Mass (6.30pm) and the Sunday Mass (10.30am) can be watched online via the Parish Facebook Page: ***Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury.***

Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officers have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk within the Parish.

Patricia Cusack: Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Colette Murphy: Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Our Catholic Schools

St. John's Catholic Primary School, Baldock
T: 01462 892478 W: stjohns4.herts.sch.uk

The Saint John Henry Newman School, Stevenage, T: 01438 314643 W: jhn.herts.sch.uk

John O'Neil is the Lister Hospital RC Chaplain

Mob: 07876 526935 or T: 01438 285518

Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals for further details please speak to Fr. Denis, look at the website or contact the parish office.

Church Hall Bookings the church hall is available to be booked for groups or celebrations. Please contact the parish office for more details.

Baldock Catholic Scout Group for boys & girls aged 6-14. Contact: enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk

To receive an email copy of the Newsletter, please visit our website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock and click on 'Subscribe to Alerts' at the bottom of the page.